Eagle Point Historical Society

January 2000

LIONS, TIGERS AND BEARS OH MY!

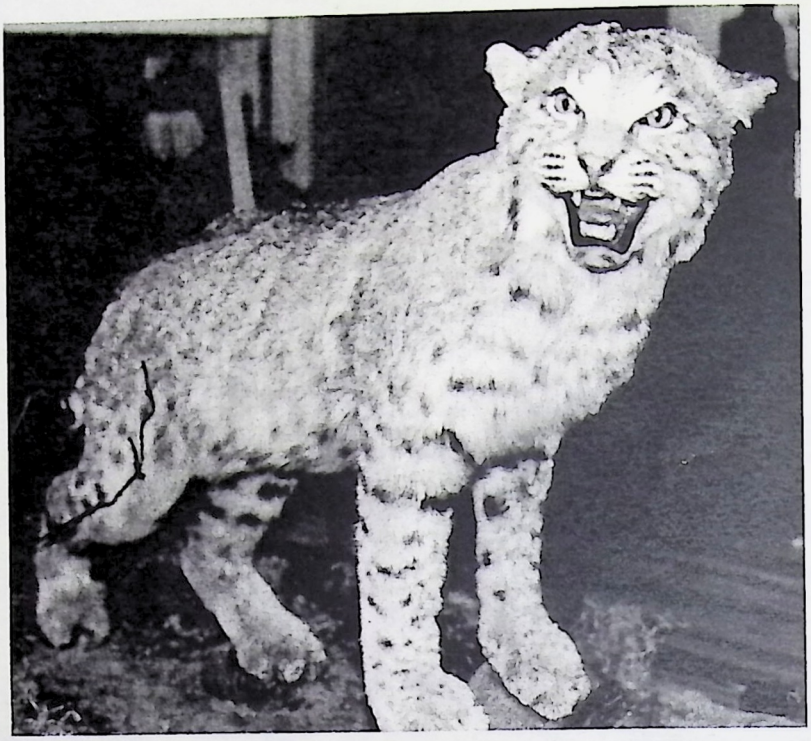
About The Cover

Ann Byerly called the museum and asked if we would be interested in some "stuffed wild animals" for display. After our board meeting and a brief call to Southern Oregon Historical Society, we decided to take the animals for a educational display.

The animals are found locally and some cougars are showing up in town people's yards. Children need to be aware what these animals look like and that is the aim of the display. Mrs. Byerly's husband Ron, took these animals to a professional taxidermist and they have been properly cared for. Ron passed away about eight years ago.

The display includes: a female cougar, coyote, bob cat and a raccoon. The barn own used to live in a tree across from the museum. Old time Eagle Point resident, Mattie Brown loved this owl who lived in her front yard tree. When the owl died of natural causes, she had him "stuffed". We have had the owl for several years.

This educational display adds one more category to our interesting museum.



Don't pet the kitty

This is the message our new educational display is trying to put across to the children. This bob cat can be very dangerous especially when they have their litters.

What is this strange tool? It has grooves on both ends. Markings include TAI-SURE, New York and AF in a circle logo. It measures 12 inches long and about 1 /12 inches around. The tool was donated by member Raleigh Green. For answer see page # 6.

THIS OLD HOUSE

"THIS OLD HOUSE" has finally been deeded to the Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum. We have been trying to get it for about 10 years. Now it is ours. In the past few years, people have been taking boards, shingles and fence posts from the old house. It is in bad repair.

Our hopes would be to move the house near the museum and make it into a children's "hands on" museum. We realize this is a tremendous undertaking, but one that is worth while.

The house was built by Marvin Sylvester Wood in 1870. He, and his brother, Dennis lived in a small cabin on the land. In 1869, the cabin burned and Dennis died.

In 1876, Marvin married Susan Caroline Griffith, a descendant of the pioneer Mathews-Johnson family. Marvin and Susan had three children, Mayme, Ora and Walter.

The house was remodeled in 1895 and the upstairs was made larger.

Marvin and Susan divorced in 1900 and Susan and Walter stayed on the old homeplace while Marvin moved to Eagle Point. Susan died in 1929 and Walter became the man of the house. Walter is the person most people remember. He used to schuffle along highway 62 on his way to Eagle Point to play cards or visit the sit-and -spit gang around town.

When the highway went through in 1947, the state was going to tear the house down. Walter raised such a fuss the state moved it directly across the road and dug Walter a new well.

Walter was known to be quite a character. He was born , raised and died in the old house. Walter left the house to his housekeeper and she sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Folan of California. It is the most art painted and photographed house in Southern Oregon. People have the picture on their walls from New York City to Europe. Locally, everyone has a special place in their hearts for the old house. And now we hope to save it for future generations.

We will need help and donations to do this. If you would like to donate to our efforts, mail your check to the Eagle Point Western Bank. Just put "This Old House" project and it will go to the proper account. Or mail your check to the Eagle Point Historical Society, P. O. Box 201 Eagle Point, OR. 97524. We thank Mr. & Mrs. Folan for their generous donation of this historic house.

EAGLE POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDARS NOW ON SALE

COVER OF THE HISTORIC CALENDAR IS A BEAUTIFUL WINTER SCENE OF THE WOOD HOUSE IN COLOR.

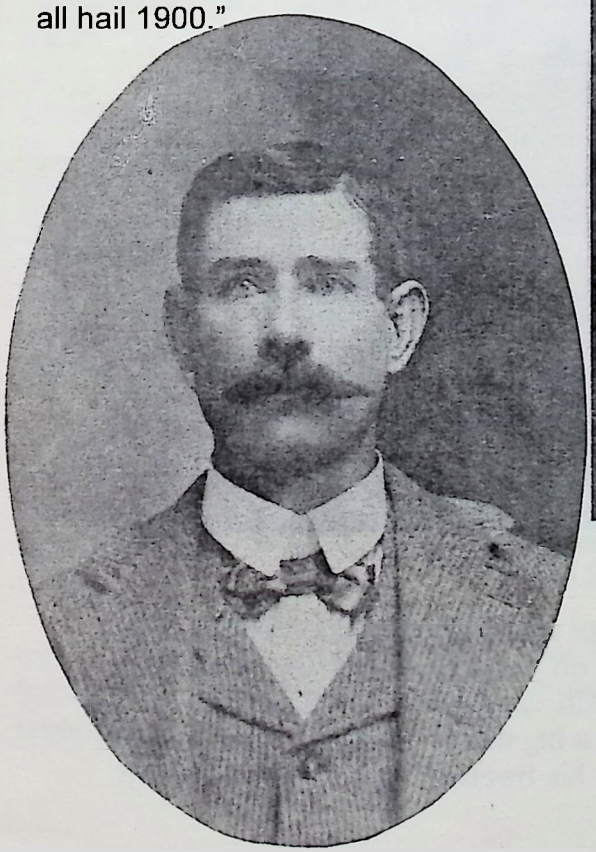
This calendar, produced by Barbara Hegne, features 20 photographs of historic buildings that are still standing in Eagle Point: Butte Creek Mill, Wood House, Ladino Cheese Factory, Eagle Point School, Brown & Son's Store, Eagle Point State Bank, Oasis Dance Hall, Antelope Creek Bridge, Ed's Tavern, Bird's Eye View of Eagle Point (1912), Sunnyside Hotel, Baptist Church, Two street scenes, Rock House. Along with the photographs, each page includes a brief history of the buildings.

This calendar is our first project to help raise money for the "Old House Project". The calendars are for sale for $7.50 at the following merchants: Heaven Scent flowers, Rick's Greatway, Serendipity, Sensational Sweets, Eagle Point Museum, Butte Creek Mill, Moozies Cafe, Eagle Point Hardware, Creative Cuts, Valley Feed & Seed, FreeStyle Graphics, (Medford), and Old Center Cafe, (Central Point). All proceeds from the calendar sales will go toward the Wood House project.

Thoughts from the past century

From James J. Fryer's journals, we get an idea of the changes in Eagle Point the past 100 years. He wrote his journals from 1867 until he died in 1912. Most of his writings are on daily occurrences of life at Eagle Point.

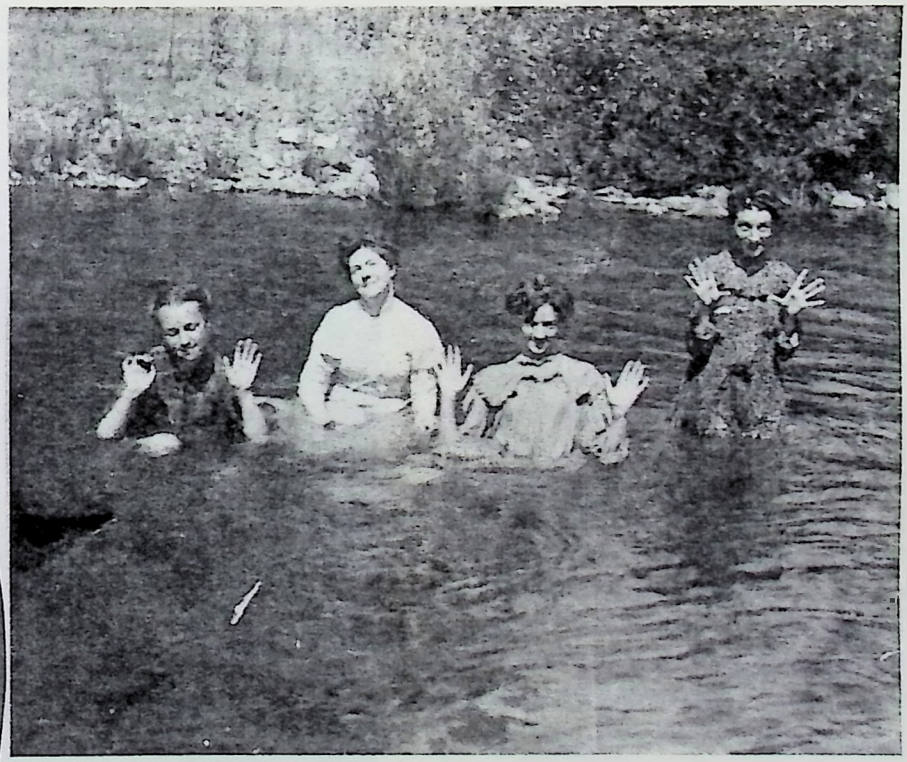
At the end of the year 1899 into 1900, he wrote: "I am getting old, failing fast. We came very close to losing our beautiful home, but I save it for a while, hope for better times, some changes at Eagle Point a telephone line, a fine new school house & there has been some fixing up a round, a big engine put on the road to haul lumber from the mountains with great expectations for the future, crop good, time good, The Spanish War, the Philippine War has been going on. The Spanish War is over, the Philippine nearly, had a big time when the boys come marching home again. Jerry Heckathorne, Elick Daves was in the war. Eagle Point gave them a fine reception when they got back. Ashland, Medford & Gold Hill has expanded fast & so has most of the valley. So good by to old 1899 and all hail 1900."



Jerry Heckathorne, War Hero

Photos From Our Collection

Eagle Point Post Office, at one time, was located on North Royal diagonally across from today's museum



On back of photo: "Swimming party at Lake Creek". No bathing suits were needed. The photo is from the Daley collection. Venita Daley far right, her mother, Eva is second from left.

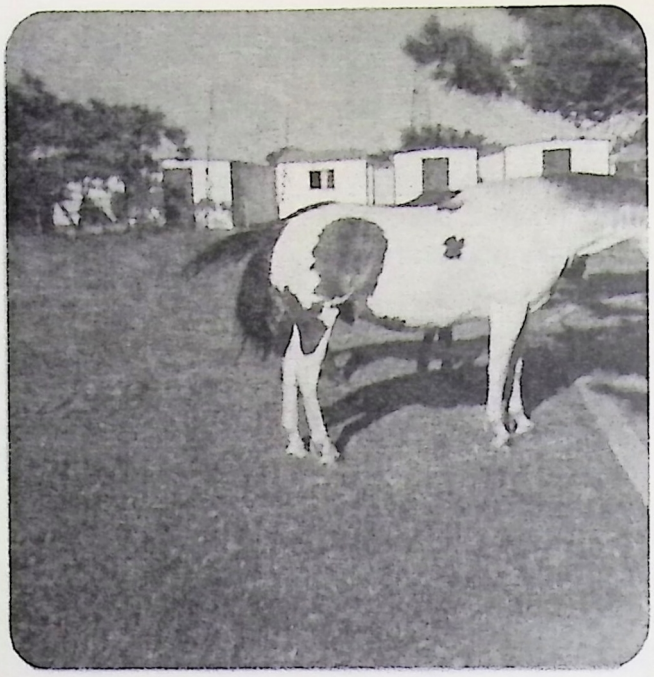
Letters & Comments

"Barbara, I'm so very pleased to hear that the Wood's House has been donated to the Eagle Point Historical Society! I only hope it is not too late to restore it. Please accept this small donation toward its project. I'll be following the progress in the Independent." Jane & Don Gipson, Shady Cover, OR.

"Hi Barbara, "You are doing a marvelous job with the museum and we especially enjoy the newsletters. Thanks for your dedicated work. We observe the growth in Eagle Point the many changes that are occurring . Your newsletter helps keep things in perspective with its memories and reminders of the past. Your work is really appreciated. Love Lorna Cook

Comments from our Sign In Book

"I love antiques and you have a spectacular selection. Thank you for sharing this with us. Britany King".
"Wonderfully displayed"
"Wonderful and diverse exhibits"
"Better than expected"
"Best history display in Oregon".
"Liked the irons and curling irons"
"Glad it's here".
"Great, a first class museum."
"So many wonderful memories."
"I liked everything."
"great and interesting."
"Awesome."
"Simply super."
"Very, very interesting.""We can all be proud of this display."
"I like coming here and see new things. Thanks EZ and Tori."
"Interesting fossils."
"Arranged so nicely."
"Wonderful and educational."
"So many memories."



Look at this photo closely. Do you see a resemblance of a photo of Abe Lincoln on the horse? That is what Jack Davis thought when he saw the photo and donated it to the museum.

Jack has donated many items of interest to our museum. We thank him for continually supporting us.

Jon Price was the winner of our great pumpkin. He is a local Eagle Point boy who lives on Teakwood. His guess was 100 pounds and the pumpkin weighed in at 99 pounds. Congratulations Jon. Also a big thank you to Ken Beebe who grew the great pumpkin at his Beebe Farms in Central Point.

News Around the Museum

We have a new OPEN flag to draw those visitors out of their cars and into our museum. The flag is red white and gold and won't be missed by those driving by.

Barbara Hegne and board member, Ken Beebe, drove to Canyonville to the Seven Feather Casino to a meeting of 32 grant recipients. Barbara applied for a grant earlier this summer. The Cow Creek Indian Tribe and casino gave away over $300,000 in grants. Our organization was awarded $6,495 to purchase video equipment. So far our grants have totalled to over $14,000 since August.

WISHING TREE

We have a variety of displays in our museum so no matter what age the visitor, they usually find something of interest. Our collection features: jewelry, Indian artifacts, exquisite glass ware, tools, clothing, sewing items, buttons, fruit jars, pottery, school records, phone collection, kitchen items, dolls, celebrity case, smoking items, rocks, fossils, beaded purse collection, cameras, guns, organ, blacksmith items, chaps, saddles, political buttons, lamps, photographs and a gift shop.

For a small hamlet on little Butte Creek and just a stone's throw from the famous Rogue River, we only have one fishing basket and two poles and one is on loan.

Does anyone out there have any fishing lure or other fishing items to make our display complete?

What is it?

Did you guess what this strange tool is used for? It pops the lid off oil drums 15 to 50 gallon. No one has guessed its use in the museum as yet. Thanks to Raleigh Green for this interesting donation.

Getting a start on the "Old House Project".

Donation of the house: Antonio & James Folan.
Six foot fence secured around the house by Quality Fence.
Gena & Beverly DeLaZerde $100
Don & Jane Gipson $10
Poster & calendar covers:& FreeStyle Graphics.
John Jacobs, architectural engineer 1 1/2 hours in-kind service.
Carol Reynolds: fold and sell calendars.
Skip Geear many hours meeting with structural engineers, movers and the fence company.
Roger Nielsen display of Wood house miniature.
Nancy Leonard Independent published information on the house.
Several Eagle Point Merchants are selling our calendars for us. That takes donated time and labor.
We are just getting started with our project. As time goes along, we will be adding to our list of volunteers and people who donate because they love "This Old House."

For further information call the museum 826-4166

Roxanne Morris brought 20 Junior High school students to see the museum on Dec. 15 and 21 students on Dec. 16. They all enjoyed the museum and were amazed at our selection of displays.

LTM Concrete sent $150 for our new lifetime membership plan. They were already lifetime members and sending in the extra money will allow us to start a CD fund. We need to do this to try and make ourselves more financially secure. We are presently funded by the county fund, however, we are not guaranteed this money. We have to apply for it. At present there are 13 historical organizations applying for the same money.

We thank LTM for this generous gift.

GIFT SHOP:

Visit our gift shop for locally designed tee-shirts, sweat shirts, and hats. We also have post cards, fruit jars, magnets, Eagle Point envelopes, small bird houses, painted rocks, dream catchers and a large collection of local history books.
Book titles include:
Country Folk (Butte Falls area).
Yonder Hills (Shady Cove-Trail)
Steve Wilson Logging
Logging The Rogue Valley
Southern Oregon Loggers
Settling The Rogue Valley
P & R Railroad from Eagle Point to Butte Falls.
Wood House
Hardship & Justice
Cowboy Legends
Bears of Southern Oregon Mts.
Rascals, Renegades and

Membership:
Teens $5.00
Single $7.50
Husband & Wife $12.50
Business $10
Lifetime $250

We are located in the Historic District of Eagle Point, Oregon, between the Old Antelope Covered Bridge and the Butte Creek Mill on North Royal.
ADMISSION FREE

Fall-winter Hours
Tues. Wed. Thurs & Fri. 12 Noon to 4pm
Saturday 10 AM to 4pm.
Closed Sun. & Mon.
Museum 826-4166

Board of Directors of the Eagle Point Historical Society

Lynn Helgedalen,	President
Wayne Jackson,	Vice-President
Skip Geear,	Treasurer
Carol Reynolds,	Secretary
Ken Beebe,	Board
Amy Dawson,	Board
Rick Chamberlain,	Board

Barbara Hegne, Chief Administrative Officer
Part Time Museum Assistants:
Melva Smith, Tina Redington & Christine Starks

Eagle Point Historical Society
P. O. Box 201
Eagle Point, Oregon 97524

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
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True Historical Stories

To: